

BLUEPRINT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
November 15, 2001

Attendees:

CAC members: Charles Pattison, Jesse Van Dyke, Albert Trull, Michael Sheridan, Carl McCoy, Kathy Archibald, Kathy Baughman, John Hutchinson

Staff: Dinah Hart

Other guests: Wendy Grey, Nancy Miller, Jeannie McCoy

1. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Hart welcomed the Group and introduced the members and the guests.

2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The nomination for Chairman of the committee was Kathy Archibald. The committee unanimously accepted the nomination. The nominations for Vice-Chair were Bill Smith and Arthur Mobley. The nominees were both absent for this meeting. The committee decided to have two nominees and the vote was taken. Bill Smith was voted Vice Chair with a 6-3 vote. Ms. Hart stated that the by-laws would be on the next regular meeting agenda.

3. Presentation on Water Quality Issues

John Buss, City Stormwater Department and Kevin Pope, County Stormwater Department provided the presentation. Mr. Buss started by stating that there were several issues that will relate to water quality issues in relation to Blueprint 2000. He stated that the City has a water monitoring program to deal with water quality issues. This program has been in effect for 10 years and monitors 21 area lakes. He also talked about the City's significant needs for storm water improvement and stated these needs far exceeded the 35-50 million dollars available set aside for water quality set aside funds in the Blueprint program. Mr. Pope stated that in the county there are similar needs as in the city, such as how do we best identify our water quality problems and how do we fix the problems. The difficulty is that the county has more ground to cover and this will cost more. He stated that the county has developed a program list of projects that will be funded out of the county's half of the 50 million dollars of water quality program funding, one of which is called Basin Assessment Study. This project is currently listed as a 2.3 million dollar line item in the project list. The concept behind this program is that water quality and flooding problems should be addressed on a basin-wide basis. He stated that water problems should be addressed by where the water flows. There are within the County seven major water basins that are studied. Some have already have had a substantial amount of work, such as the Lake Jackson Basin. He stated that others such as the Eastern sinks basin (which are the head waters of the St. Marks system) has had little water quality study and there are some issues there which need to be addressed. He stated that, for example, in rapidly developing areas it is known that as more impervious surface results, more water runs off, goes to the bottom of the hill and the hill floods higher and for longer periods of time. He stated that the county is looking to figure where the locations are that floodplains will likely rise as development occurs; this is called flood plain analysis. The county is looking to use this analysis as a tool to use when zoning requests come in for more intense development. He stated that this monitoring is necessary and labor intensive. He stated that as the watersheds build out more water quality problems will arise. The question was asked if the City and the County share a common water quality measurement? Mr. Pope stated that some of the issues are common and some are not for certain reasons. He stated that the City and County does coordinate to ensure the same parameters by the same standard methods. There are a few differences because of the geography. The city has more of the smaller lakes and the County has larger lakes, therefore, some of the problems are different. The question was asked if the City and County have the same quantitative assessment as far as flooding capacities? Mr. Buss stated that the Comprehensive plan set the level of service and the local development regulations come from the same Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Pope stated that originally these started out the same, and drifted separate. The county has reviewed practices and based on some of the City's successful practices that has implemented changes to the County's ordinance. A question was asked how is the planning for stormwater/flooding based? Mr. Pope stated that currently when a

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building request is submitted, the applicant is responsible for providing the information on the 100-year elevation and are required to build the finished floor above that level. Another question asked was there currently a tracking system of the zoning requests submitted/amended? Mr. Pope stated that the build-out floodplain analysis would assist in helping by allowing a system to track the differences as the zoning changes are made. Mr. Pope stated that it is the intent to have the information on the effects of the zoning change for the Commissions to review before the changes are made. The question was asked if the Comprehensive Plan is always followed and is there conflicts with the plan? Ms. Grey stated that the Comprehensive Plan calls for comparison analysis, a comprehensive stormwater policy to be put in place, and requires retrofit to occur. This is not a requirement, but if the information is available better land use decisions result. Mr. Buss stated that there are several issues dealing with built-out floodplain modeling, starting with stormwater concurrency. When a project is built a review has to be done upstream to ensure that flood stages are not being raised. Mr. Buss noted that the City and County work on similar projects and follow the same Comprehensive Plan. He stated that a program is being done through funds from water utilities; this program will use the water qualities set aside for the output of this study. Mr. Buss stated that this program was initiated by a Comprehensive Plan Amendment, and was proposed in 1999 and adopted. This program will assist in developing specific objectives for the Comprehensive Plan. He stated that by 2004 the output of this study should lead to Comprehensive Plan Amendments that reflect these new objectives including program funding and local government will initiate a water quality enhancement program to achieve the goals. The question was asked if the City and County had different Comprehensive Plans. Mr. Buss explained that they use the same comprehensive plan but the dates for the City and County are different for this policy. Mr. Pope explained the differences between watersheds and basins and the issues involved with closed basins. Mr. Buss further explained the process. He discussed pollutants, water sampling, rainfall, and treatment of waters in the watershed. He stated that this process is closely coordinated with the County to avoid duplication. He discussed the data for this process comes from many sources, such as, Department of Environmental Protection, City, County, and Water District. He stated that there are four large basins that consist of many watersheds. Mr. Pope stated that there are also closed basins, which means that under normal conditions these will not have discharge. He stated that this one of the biggest issues in terms of flooding and water quality in Leon County because of our geology. Lake Jackson is a closed basin in comparison to Lake Talquin where pollutants come into the lake and are flushed out and on to the Gulf of Mexico. In Lake Jackson any that falls on the ground and runs off and eventually ends in the lake and stays there because nothing flushes it out. Mr. Buss briefly discussed the water basins and the presentation was ended.

4. Presentation on Roadway Design Standards

The Blueprint philosophy as it relates to design standards was explained by the team who was responsible for developing the typical sections consisted of consultants from RPA group, City and County Public Works, and Transportation Planning. The intent was to assemble the elements that were recommended in the Blueprint 2000 program into a standard illustration of a roadway corridor that would include all of the elements recommended by the Blueprint 2000 for the projects, which will be provided to the consultants for a preliminary design and environmental study program that for Capital Circle. John Davis made a presentation on the committee's proposals. The committee requested information from the BPAC committee regarding the use and the cost of having bike trails. Ms. Archibald stated that this requirement to have the bike trails on the road is being pushed nationally to have bikes treated like a form of transportation and have equal treatment to automobiles. The committee discussed treatment of transit and stormwater, as well as landscaping on medians, sidewalks and multi-use trails. They also discussed the ability to receive federal and state funding to maintain these landscaped medians and trails. The committee stated that they would recommend having the maximum amount of landscaping possible and mostly focusing on trees. The committee discussed the funding provided by the State and the funding from Tallahassee-Leon County. The committee discussed the many different types of transit systems that could be introduced and the need for the 12-foot right of way. The group discussed having a separation within the road and stated that this language should be included to

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reinforce this issue. Mr. Davis then discussed the segment between Woodville and Crawfordville Highways and the need to have service roads to allow access to properties in these areas. He also touched on the sector plans that will soon be initiated in this area through the planning department and plans to control/manage access through corridor mapping.

5. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be on December 10, 2001.